Keeping in Touch

JUNE, 1990

News and notes from
the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029, (213) 464-5100.

April, 1990
Top 20 Tithes

1.	MCC Dallas	Dallas, TX	$3,830.28
2.	MCC Washington	Washington, DC	2,636.83
3.	Church/Holy Spirit	Ft Lauderdale, FL	2,505.70
4.	MCC Toronto	Ontario, CAN	2,204.68
5.	MCC of the Resurrection	Houston, TX	2,126.34
6.	MCC Long Beach	Long Beach, CA	1,954.26
7.	MCC San Francisco	San Francisco, CA	1,774.00
8.	MCC in the Valley	N. Hollywood, CA	1,719.08
9.	MCC San Diego	San Diego, CA	1,564.09
10.	King of Peace MCC	St Petersburg, FL	1,405.05
11.	MCC of the Rockies	Denver, CO	1,385.64
12.	First MCC of Kansas	Wichita, KS	1,256.49
13.	Church of the Trinity MCC	Sarasota, FL	985.69
14.	MCC Tampa	Tampa, FL	938.81
15.	MCC Philadelphia	Philadelphia, PA	795.02
16.	MCC Key West	Key West, FL	788.08
17.	MCC New York	New York, NY	763.29
18.	MCC Albuquerque	Albuquerque, NM	716.34
19.	Divine Redeemer MCC	Glendale, CA	710.02
20.	Joy MCC	Orlando, FL	706.58

April, 1990
Top 20 Per Capita

1.	MCC Edmonton	Alberta, CAN	43.36
2.	MCC Philadelphia	Philadelphia, PA	25.73
3.	MCC in El Paso	El Paso, TX	25.63
4.	MCC of Northern Virginia	Oakton, VA	24.04
5.	Christ the Redeemer MCC	Evanston, IL	24.01
6.	Calvary MCC	Redwood City, CA	23.90
7.	New Life MCC	Berkeley, CA	23.31
8.	Gentle Shepherd MCC	Scottsdale, AZ	21.74
9.	Friendship MCC	Shreveport, LA	21.53
10.	Open Arms MCC	Rochester, NY	20.38
11.	Church of the Trinity MCC	Sarasota, FL	19.20
12.	Christ Alive MCC	Vancouver, BC, CAN	19.16
13.	MCC Long Beach	Long Beach, CA	18.74
14.	MCC Dallas	Dallas, TX	18.07
15.	Christ Chapel MCC	Santa Ana, CA	17.89
16.	New Life MCC	Charlotte, NC	17.60
17.	Grace MCC	N. Miami Beach, FL	17.52
18.	MCC New York	New York, NY	17.22
19.	MCC in the Country	Vista, CA	16.58
20.	Faith Eternal MCC	Springfield, IL	16.41

Praises

Resurrection Chapel MCC of Torrance, CA is happy to announce the completion of Rev. Thomas Walker's first audio tape series "Pathways to Serenity: Dealing With Drug and Alcohol Addiction." This series is now available for $12 US plus $3 postage and handling from Resurrection Chapel, P.O. Box 11338, Torrance, CA 90510; or (213) 323-8382.

MCC Nashville, TN would like to share their joy as they installed their new Pastor, Rev'd Rodney Bragg on April 22, 1990. Officiating the service were Rev. Roberta Dunn of MCC Pittsburgh and Mr. Jay Neely, GLAD District Coordinator. Congratulations MCC Nashville and Rev'd Bragg!

MCC of Austin, Texas will celebrate the installation of their Pastor Rev. Wendy Foxworth with special activities the weekend of June 8-10 with installation on the 9th. Congratulations, MCC Austin and Wendy!

Two new District Coordinators -- Western Canadian District elected Rev. Beverly Baptiste, Winnipeg, Manitoba; and the Great Lakes District elected Ms. Judy Dale, Louisville, Kentucky. Congratulations and welcome to the General Council.

Prayers

MCC Boston celebrated five years of ministry with the Rev. Steve Carson, as he announced his intention to conclude his pastorate effective May 20. "I believe the time has come to move on for what is next in my life," said Rev. Carson. "My love for this church and for Boston remain. I am grateful to have had this opportunity to serve MCC Boston, as we have laid important foundations for ministry. I look back with joy." Our prayers are with Steve as he moves to San Francisco and with MCC Boston as they continue in ministry.

Rev. David Presley, pastor of MCC in Wichita Falls, TX is in the hospital with an unidentified infection. Please keep him and MCC Wichita Falls in your prayers.

Please continue your prayers for: Rev. Ron Bergeron, Rev. Emmett Watkins, Rev. Brad Anderson, and all those you may know who are needing our love and support.

East German Feature At 1990 Gay/Lesbian Film Festival

"Coming Out," the award-winning gay feature from East Germany, has been selected to open the 14th San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival on Friday, June 15, 1990, at the landmark Castro Theatre. The Festival screening will be the North American premiere of Heiner Carow's touching story of a young man's discovery of his sexuality and his introduction to the gay community of East Berlin. Director Carow and actor Dirk Kummer will attend the premiere. The ten-day Festival will run through Sunday, June 24, with screenings at the Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St., and the Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St., both in San Francisco, CA.

Other films confirmed for the Festival include three new features from the Netherlands, "Evenings" by Rudolf Van den Berg, "Crocodiles in Amsterdam" by Annette Apon, and "Pink Ulysses" by Eric de Kuyper; as well as "A Corps Perdu" by Canadian filmmaker Lea Pool; and "I Am A Man," the Thai version of Matt Crowley's "Boys in the Band." The Festival includes several special programs, film series, and retrospectives. "Lusty and Lawless," a look at dykes in prison films, will feature a rare theatrical screening of the 1950 women's prison classic "Caged," "Prisonnieres," a new French feature by Charlotte Silvera, and Mai Zetterling's 1982 film "Scrubbers."

The Festival's video program will be highlighted by the screening of the second season of "Out on Tuesday," the ground-breaking lesbian and gay television series from London's Channel Four. Several video programs covering a wide range of AIDS issues will be presented at the Festival to coincide with the International Conference on AIDS in San Francisco on June 20-24.

The complete Festival schedule is available by writing: Frameline, P.O. Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114; or calling (415) 431-9227.

Guest Preachers/Celebrants Wanted for New MCC Ministry in Vermont

Any MCC clergy or student clergy who will be visiting or vacationing in Vermont this year and who would like to preach and/or celebrate Holy Communion for the new lay-led MCC in the Green Mountain State, please contact the Northeast District Coordinator Rev. Jeffrey Pulling at (203) 296-6512. Northern Lights MCC meets Sunday afternoons at 4:00 PM in the Montpelier/Barre area in the middle of the State.

Lancaster Theological Seminary Announces

Rev. Karon C. Van Gelder of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, received the Master of Divinity Degree, Saturday, May 19, during the 165th Commencement of the Lancaster Theological Seminary of the United Church of Christ, Lancaster, PA.

Karon was ordained into Christian Ministry in 1986 and will continue to serve as Pastor of MCC of the Spirit, Harrisburg, PA. Congratulations Karon, and many blessings in your continuing ministry!

ENSD Outreach Ministries

OUTREACH MINISTRIES of the European North Sea District of UFMCC and Coordinator Paul Scroxton announce their first Summer Retreat Weekend at Bay House on the edge of Lake Windermere in England on July 27-29. The weekend is open to all who are involved or interested in the development of new MCC groups. There will be opportunity for fellowship, discussion and walks. It is an ideal occasion for those isolated from an established MCC church to meet with others. The retreat will be led by Rev. Bob Jones and Paul Scroxton, and in discussion sessions we will be exploring 'Attitudes' and how they affect our 'reaching out'.

Anyone interested in this retreat may obtain more information by writing to: MCC Outreach Ministries UK, P.O. Box 64, Stockport, ENGLAND SK3 9HH.

FFO Annual Meeting

The Commission on Faith, Fellowship & Order will hold their Annual Meeting on July 12-14, 1990. The location will be at the Radisson Palm Springs Resort and Convention Center, Palm Springs, CA.

Room rates will be $49 single/double and this special price applies three days prior to and three days after the meeting.

Mr. Jim Voltz at Vacation Corporation will handle the air and room reservations. You may contact him toll free at 1-800-966-7174.

Registration forms will be automatically sent to all FFO Commissioners and are also available by writing or calling: Rev. Steven Torrence, Chair FFO, c/o MCC Key West, 1215 Petronia Street, Key West, FL 33040; or call (305) 294-8912. This will be an important re-organizational meeting, so please plan to attend. Registration is $50.00.

Iran Executes Lesbians & Gays

According to Amnesty International at least three gay men and two lesbians were killed in January, 1990, as a result of the Iranian government's barbaric new policy calling for the execution of homosexuals.

On New Years Day three accused homosexual men were publicly beheaded in one of the city squares of Nahavand and two accused lesbians were stoned to death in Langrood.

Iranian Chief Justic Morteza Moghtadai said that, "The religious punishment for the despicable act of homosexuality is death for both parties."

Five options for the executions of homosexuals are available to the judge. "They are either to be beheaded by a sword, stoned to death, thrown down a height such as a mountain or tall building, die under the rubble of a wall demolished on their head, or burned alive."

Letters of protest can be sent to Secretary-General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, asking him to direct a United Nations inquiry and to apply pressure to stop the executions of lesbians and gays in Iran. You can send copies to the ILGA Action Secretariat, c/o GLF-Koln, Bismarckstrasse 17, D-5000 Koln 1, West Germany.

Names Project Finds Home for AIDS Quilt

The Names Project's search for a home for the AIDS Quilt has come to a victorious end. Trinity United Methodist Church, San Francsico, CA is planning a joint project with the Names Project to construct a multi-purpose facility to serve as a service center for persons with AIDS, a home for the AIDS Quilt and a gathering hall for the Trinity UMC congregation and other community groups.

The AIDS Quilt has been displayed in several cities across the country over the past three years. The Quilt consists of over 10,000 panels from many places all over the world. In October, 1989, the AIDS Quilt was displayed in Washington, D.C., which was announced to be the last public display.

The Names Project and Trinity UMC will be announcing an international design competition in early 1990 and completion of the center is set for 1992.

Wanted -- Associate Pastor

Position available for an Associate Pastor for MCC Key West: Newly licensed clergy are encouraged to apply. One year contract - renewable for 1 year only. Strength in administration, teaching and programming is preferable.

This is a fulltime position, salary commensurate with experience. Housing is provided as part of the package.

Please send your resume with references to Rev. Steven Torrence, c/o MCC Key West, 1215 Petronia Street, Key West, Florida 33040.

Central Conference of American Rabbis

The 101st annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) promises to create some significant moments for the Reform Jewish movement. The conference is scheduled to run from Sunday, June 24 through Thursday, June 28 at the Seattle Sheraton.

Reform Rabbis will be dealing with such issues as homosexuality and the rabbinate, domestic violence (in the Jewish home as well as at large), the physician's moral obligation to treat AIDS patients, China's subjugation of Tibet, the right of Native Americans to their ancestors' remains, the current status of Ethiopian Jewry, the right of women to pray at Israel's Western Wall, and a proposed boycott of meeting in states that fail to recognize Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a holiday -- to name but a few. All but executive board meetings will be open to everyone.

The conference will end on Thursday, June 28th with an outreach program to train facilitators in helping interfaith couples, led by Dr. Barney Rosen, a clinical psychologist.

A detailed convention agenda as well as a copy of the resolutions to be considered and the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Homosexuality and the Rabbinate are available on request. Rooms at the Seattle Sheraton are available within the CCAR reserved block. Please direct any requests to Rabbi Elliot Stevens at the CCAR office at (212) 684-4990.

Alyson Publications New Children's Line of Books

Alyson Publications, the U.S.'s largest gay and lesbian publisher, has purchased the popular children's book, "Heather Has Two Mommies" from In Other Words Publishing of Northampton, Massachusetts. This title is the first in Alyson's recently announced line of books for the children of gay and lesbian parents.

"Heather Has Two Mommies", written by Leslea Newman, is the story of the daughter of a lesbian couple and how she copes with the realization that her family is different from others. Warmly illustrated by Diana Souza, "Heather Has Two Mommies" realistically approaches issues central to lesbian parenting: artificial insemination, the birthing process, and the needs of a lesbian household.

"This is an example of the high caliber of children's books we will be publishing for the gay and lesbian community," says publisher Sasha Alyson. "This fall we will publish our first original children's book which has been written and illustrated by Michael Willhoite."

Toll Free Number for G/L Who Are Moving

A new toll free number has been established to provide free and confidential information for Gay men and Lesbians who are relocating from one city to another in the USA. Many Gay men and Lesbians feel more comfortable working with a Realtor who understands their need. Gay men and Lesbians will be referred to a Realtor familiar with the local gay community in any particular metropolitan area by calling 1-800-673-9093. The line will operate from 8 AM - 11 PM EST, everyday.

While promoting gay businesses, callers will also be helping to fight AIDS because 10% of the commissions generated through the use of this line will be donated to a national organization dedicated to fighting AIDS. Callers can even request that a contribution be made to a specific organization.

For additional information, contact Steven Kopstein (202) 337-5911.

REMEMBER!! General Conference XV will be July 14-21, 1991 in Phoenix, Arizona at The Pointe, Tapatio Cliffs. Mark your calendars now and plan to join the fun. More information will be coming in later issues of KIT.

Faith & Feminism

How do they fit together?

For fifteen years, DAUGHTERS OF SARAH, the magazine for Christian feminists, has spoken to this question. Each bimonthly magazine examines lively, current issues for women and the church today. Some topics addressed are: spirituality, gender roles, biblical interpretation, divorce, and feminist understandings of sin and grace.

Each issue provides a forum for the ecumenical voices of Christian feminists. All share a commitment to the Scriptures' proclamation of equality, mutual power, and mutual servanthood between women and men.

If you are interested in a trial subscription (6 month - 3 issues) please send $9.00 to Daughters of Sarah, Dept. 1400, 3801 N. Keeler, Chicago, IL 60641.

Announcing a NEW, Revised and Greatly Expanded Edition of The Other Side's Much-Requested Booklet

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